

Harrington Park Recreation Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, October 16, 2019

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman's Announcement

Chairman DeGruccio called the meeting to order at 8:10pm.

In compliance with Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, adequate notice of the scheduled meeting was made. It is posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Center. Copies have been mailed to the BERGEN RECORD, SUBURBANITE, and THE NORTHERN VALLEY PRESS. A copy has been filed with the Borough Clerk, and copies have been mailed to individuals requesting the same.

2. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION Members	PRESENT	ABSENT
(CD) Charles DeGruccio (chairman)	X	
(LC) Lynne Cappelmann	X	
(TD) Thomas Donnelly	X	
(RH) Robert Hwang		X
(PK) Patrick (Kelly) Kramer	X	
(AP) Ashely Plescia	X	
(MS) Matthew Saland		X

ALSO PRESENT:

(JC) Joon Chung, Council Liaison

(CL) Carolyn Lee, Secretary

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

a. Approval of Minutes (September 18, 2019)

Motion: AP Second: KK

Approval of the Sept.18, 2019 minutes	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
(CD) Charles DeGruccio (chairman)			X	
(LC) Lynne Cappelmann			X	
(TD) Thomas Donnelly			X	
(RH) Robert Hwang				X
(PK) Patrick (Kelly) Kramer	X			
(MS) Matthew Saland				X
(AP) Ashely Plescia	X			

4. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

No members of the public attended the meeting.

5. UPDATES

a. Finance and Budget

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JC provided finance reports for Town Day, baseball, softball, t-ball, soccer and VIP soccer.

Soccer - The soccer account has \$12,782. \$10,000 was from field maintenance from 2017 and 2018. The balance from the dues collected without the field maintenance is just under \$3,000. All expenses have been paid. There were 135 students registered and 31 VIP students registered. VIP has a different age group that goes up to 25 years old. There was discussion on the soccer program. See Sport Co-ordination.

Baseball - The remaining funds for T-ball is \$2,894; Softball is \$3,397; and Baseball is \$8,264. Baseball had a good turnout, was run well, parents seemed happy and there were volunteers. Baseball pays an annual fee for field maintenance. The registration fees were based on previous years fees and there was a lot of money left over. Recreation can decide how to lower Baseball fees for next year and implement a family cap similar to soccer. Funds can be used for field house improvements.

Town Day – 3 years ago there was a balance of about \$3,000 in the account, which made it a concern to pay for rides for the next year. This year we ended with about \$10,000. The increase was due to Recreation selling food and increased donations. About \$2,500 in sales was from ride tickets and beer cups. Food sales were over \$2,000. The food effort was a lot of work, but great for the budget. There were volunteers selling food and working at the grill, but all members worked the entire time. It was last minute to decide to sell food. If Recreation continues to receive more donations and sell food, it may be possible to have fire works.

- Food prices were low. \$2 for hotdog/hamburgers; \$1 drinks (except \$2 Gatorade); \$1 snacks; \$1 for 2 ring pops, etc.
- Ideas for the Next Town Day
 - TD mentioned that another town sold prepaid packets of tickets for food, drinks, snacks and rides. Each color ticket was for something different. This way no one handles cash and the money is collected ahead of time. TD will see how it is done.
 - \$200 in singles and \$5 should be in each cashbox. Recreation members had to go to the bank for change. Everyone brings \$20 bills.

b. Field Requests

A. Updates (TGA, Santos Baseball)

TGA – Paul Baly was the point person for TGA. CL will request the number of registered kids for TGA's programs for 2019 and issue them an invoice for \$10/registrant. Kevin Rooney is the TGA contact.

Santos Baseball – They are interested in using Highland Field 5 for tryouts on October 26th. Lara confirmed that the field is available. CL informed Mr. Santos that the Hold Harmless form must be completed and signed, the COI & \$75 fee must be submitted.

Invoices (Slugs and Wild Things)

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CL sent out the invoices that CD created for Slugs and Wild Things.

c. School Coordination

A. Indoor Soccer & Basketball – Billing

The BOE has a payment schedule and will work the Recreation for school usage. The amount the Borough has to pay is minimal because indoor soccer doesn't use much gym time. LC noted that \$20/hr is paid for the use of the gym. If there are 2 sports using the gyms at the same time she splits the bill so each pay \$10/hr. Now that soccer is part of the town and basketball is not. Will the payment be split or would basketball pay \$20/hr? Basketball had the bigger bill because soccer did not use the gym as much. The school will need to know that soccer won't be billed out and LC won't have to track the hours for soccer. JC will make sure the cost for the school for janitors is covered. JC is meeting Dr. Fried on Friday and she will discuss how the bill was split between sports. LC tracked fee and hours and the school may not realize this is what was done. Joe Simeone/AYSO didn't want to sign the Hold Harmless paper work and didn't want to use the gym. Now that Recreation is managing soccer, will indoor soccer want more gym time? No games were held at the HP school. Games were in Northvale. LT should fill out the soccer field request forms for the school and work on registration. LC will reach out to Barry McCauley and Joe Simeone to see who is managing indoor soccer this year.

d. Sports Coordination

A. Soccer

- There are no home games, because there are no goals for the right size field. Another issue is that Rec doesn't have referees. This is the first year for Recreation to organize soccer and it is work in progress. Moving into soccer season, there should be a soccer committee with 6 or 7 people to break it down similar to baseball. There are people who are willing to volunteer. As a commissioner, the line of communication should be open. If a post-mortem is done after the season with everyone, people would know that Recreation is trying to improve the program.
- There is one Rec practice on Highland Field per night (4 1-2 teams) at the same time. Why not separate from 5-6pm then 6-7pm? Thursday night there is no one before or after AP. The backfield is taken the entire night. The club moves forward after Rec leaves.
- AP volunteered to be involved with the committee that will be formed.

B. Speed Soccer

AP reviewed the finance report and noted that Monday night practice, one trainer attends and Speed Soccer is charging for 2 trainers. Speed Soccer does not seem to be accountable for what they are charging and what we are paying for. AP's experience is that the trainers are not teaching the rules and terminology of soccer. The trainer showed up 20 mins late for kindergarten

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clinic. There are other parents disappointed with the trainer performance. JC suggested sitting down with Speed Soccer and listing the things that Recreation is unhappy about and things that are working. Recreation will let Speed Soccer know our expectations for next year. AP will list the things that Recreation needs to discuss with Speed Soccer. There should be checks and balances by LT, committee members and coaches based on the number of trainers at the practices, if there needs to be a trainer at a practice. Everyone should have a list of scope of work that Speed Soccer is responsible for.

C. NVSC

- Recreation would like to know why NVSC does not pay HP for the fields. AP noted that they pay Norwood. Norwood puts Rec Soccer field requests before NVSC. Recreation has never had a satisfactory explanation why. JC will investigate how much NVSC pays to Norwood.
- AP noted that there is one field lined at Highland and there should be 3 fields lined (fields for grades 1-2, 3-4, older kids). There are goals in the container without nets. NVSC uses the field that is lined. Rec soccer uses the other fields
- Other towns require kids who play club soccer to play Rec soccer. There is concern that this is not possible in HP. HP residents have been given refunds. Going into the season, it was requested to NVSC that club players play Rec soccer a condition for field usage. Now, it is not being enforced. If you want to play on Demarest's club team, you must show proof that you are registered on their Rec team. For club and rec practices, the girls are required to go to club practices, but must go to the rec game. AP would be happy to work it out with NVSC.
- The people running NVSC told Lara that they will tell HP residents of the requirement to play Rec, but many parents were not informed by email, application, or any communication.

e. Town Programs

A. Ragamuffin (Oct. 26, 2019, 10:00-11:30am)

KK will get the pumpkins from Stokes. The Juniors Woman's Club will set up the refreshments. Teens for Tomorrow will arrive at 9am. The kids will start at 10am. AP will confirm with Fire Department and Ambulance Corps. The police department leads the parade and the DPW blocks off the streets. The prizes were leftover from last year.

f. Park & Playground Maintenance

i. Playground Maintenance

ii. Field Maintenance

A. Fieldhouse Roof and Door Estimate

TD will have a quote for the repair by Friday. The threshold to go out for bid is about \$17,000. Since our CFO is QPA, the amount can go up to \$40,000.

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We need 3 quotes. AP and TD will contact some people local roofing companies. JC suggest we get it this done before it snows. The Recreation Commission must approve the company that will be used. This repair would help with all sports for storage.

B. Highland Field 5 Wooden Bleachers

DPW would change the wood. Recreation should recommend the material and DPW will look into it. Treks is the original brand (a generic term is composite decking). JC will speak to M. Kiernan.

C. Mosquito Spray and Mowing

There was request and it was done last Friday. There probably won't need any more sprays because it is getting colder. It was done a few times this year. The county does the spraying.

D. Official Size Softball Field

There was a lot of money spent to clean up the softball field and the school was supposed to maintain it. The grass has grown back again on the field between the playgrounds. The other fields are still in great condition. CL noted that the field in between the playground grows grass every year. AP suggested that the money used clean the field each year could be used to convert Highland Field 2 into a softball field that the 1-2 grade and 3-4 grades can play on. Field 5 is the softball field. There was discussion about size of the fields. Whatever field isn't being used by Recreation could be converted to softball so the Rec games can be played at Highland and not at the school. Why can't Rec include the school softball field in the maintenance contract? AP noted that Rec softball has to work around the school's softball schedule.

Someone from the school had verbally requested FieldPro to modify on the softball field at the school. After the work was done the school did not pay for the modifications because the request was verbal. Later, the borough was sent the bill. The work was not listed in the specifications listed with the Borough and Recreation had not requested the change. Nat was not clear if the school or the borough had requested the work. Currently, Recreation has a contract for 2 years listed in the specifications with an option for a 3rd year. Next year, the specifications should be reviewed. JC will speak to the school about this. Next time, we should consider modifying the specs. Recreation seems to take care of the schools fields and the school is supposed to maintain all 3 fields during the season. FieldPro sets up the fields and prepares them for the winter. The DPW maintains the fields at Highland and Pondside. The school fields are supposed to be maintained by the school.

E. Highland Field 1 Bent Light Pole

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DPW had given a quote couple of years ago. It was an expensive quote from an electrician. CL will ask DPW for another quote.

F. Pacific Sprinklers

KK scheduled M. Kiernan on Nov. 12 to meet with Pacific Sprinklers. TD noted there was an issue that the sprinklers were on in the middle of the day when they were playing a baseball game at Pondside. KK will ask about the controls to help in any emergency.

G. Closing Bathrooms/Water Meter

Bathrooms can be closed the weekend before Thanksgiving. Soccer is over by then.

H. Basketball Lights

Lights can be turned off on Dec. 31st.

I. Portable Bathrooms

There are 3 portable bathrooms located at George St., Pondside, and Highland Field 3 (baseball had requested). A lot of money is spent on Porto John. They should be removed November 15 and brought back April 1st.

J. Locks to the Hut and Equipment

Peter Toomin had requested to have locks changed at the end of the season of baseball because everyone has a key. LC thought that he was going to buy a lock and get reimbursed. JC stopped at J&B to look at other systems bathroom locks and can ask about 3 new locks.

6. PROJECTS

a. Grant Update

The grant was received in February based on the preliminary proposal. The final draft with modifications was submitted in September. We have to hear back from the county for approval. We are aiming for next spring to start. The project will need to go out for bid. We could reach out to Lions, Junior Womans', HP 5K or Closter Elks for picnic tables.

7. OTHER ITEMS

a. Recreation Director

A new computer will be purchased for LT. A new HP email address will be created for her.

b. George Street – Resident suggestion to update/clean

The playground equipment requires power washing. The slide or bumpy slide could be updated or replaced. JC will ask DPW if it is possible to power wash the playground.

c. Highland Field Playground

Recreation should look at something to replace the merry go round that was removed. In the last meeting, Recreation members discussed equipment that would be ADA

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compliant. Westvale has playground equipment with ramps that are wide enough for wheel chairs.

d. Rutgers SAFTEY Training

Last month the members wanted a training session any Wednesday in November. CL called Rutgers, but the instructor is recovering from surgery. The cost is \$200 for the instructor and \$35 for the material. The Recreation members would like to change the dates to any Wednesday in March 2020.

e. Community Development Grants

CL emailed suggestions mentioned during the meeting to A. Bistriz. She suggested that it should be a recreation project and does not fit the purpose of the grant.

f. Town Walk Around – potential projects

This is a walk around to list potential projects for future years. CL will email the spreadsheet.

g. Farmers Market – Thank you

The Farmers Market organization thanked Recreation for giving them to opportunity to have their event on the lower court at Highland Field. All the vendors were surprised with the increased volume of people. The location was better than last year. They are considering extending the market to 5 weeks next year.

8. ADJOURN

Motion: CD Second: LC
Meeting adjourned 9:40PM.

NEXT MEETING

Next regularly scheduled meeting is November 20, 2019 at 8pm.